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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 STATE 168808 090913Z
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DRAFTED BY S/S-O: DAVID FETTER

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FOLLOWING JAKARTA 04371 DATED 09 SEP SENT ACTION
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QUOTE

S E C R E T JAKARTA 004371

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E.O.12958: DECL: 09/09/24

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PGOV, UN, PO, ID
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SUBJECT: CINCPAC MEETING WITH GENERAL WIRANTO

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. J. STAPLETON ROY; REASON 1.5(D).

2. (S) IN A FORTY-MINUTE PRIVATE ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH GENERAL WIRANTO SEPTEMBER 9, THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER AND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY, CINCPAC ADMIRAL BLAIR GAVE GENERAL WIRANTO HIS TWO-PAGE TALKING POINTS. IN SEPARATE REMARKS, HE URGED WIRANTO TO PULL BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DISASTER FOR HIS COUNTRY AND SAID WE NEEDED TO SEE IMMEDIATE EVIDENCE OF THIS.

ADMIRAL BLAIR ENDED HIS VISIT AFTER THIS MEETING. HE BRIEFED ME BEFORE DEPARTING.

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4. (S) IN RESPONSE, ADMIRAL BLAIR GAVE GENERAL WIRANTO A COPY OF HIS TWO-PAGE TALKING POINTS (SEE BELOW). THEN, HE TOLD GENERAL WIRANTO HE HAD HEARD WHAT HE SAID. SPEAKING AS A FRIEND, HE WANTED TO CONVEY A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE US GOVERNMENT IN WHICH OTHER CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDS JOINED IN.

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AS A FRIEND,
HE ASKED GENERAL WIRANTO TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR AND SAID THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS WILLING TO HELP HIM.

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6. (S) ADMIRAL BLAIR REPEATED HIS EARLIER MESSAGE AND URGED GENERAL WIRANTO TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND.

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8. (S) ADMIRAL BLAIR'S PREPARED TALKING POINTS, A COPY OF WHICH WAS LEFT WITH WIRANTO, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I COME TO YOU AT WHAT I CAN ONLY IMAGINE IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS IN YOUR CAREER TO CONVEY THE MOST GRAVE CONCERNS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

DESPITE REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT TNI COULD FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN EAST TIMOR; DESPITE SENDING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF NEW TROOPS TO THE TERRITORY AND TAKING THE EXTRAORDINARY STEP OF IMPOSING MARTIAL LAW; EAST TIMOR HAS DESCENDED INTO ANARCHY.

TNI HAS FAILED TO MEET ITS REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE 5 MAY AGREEMENT. THE UN MISSION IS UNDER SIEGE AND IN THE PROCESS OF EVACUATION.

THE HANDLING OF THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR HAS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROLE OF TNI WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA. IT IS CRITICAL THAT TNI BE SEEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THROUGHOUT INDONESIA AS A LOYAL AND RESPONSIBLE PART OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND STATE.

FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION WILL NOT ONLY CAUSE UNNECESSARY LOSS OF LIFE; IT WILL DO POTENTIALLY IRREVOCABLE DAMAGE TO INDONESIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE U.S.

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LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTEREST IN SEEING THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE INDONESIAN ARCHIPELAGO. ON THE CONTRARY, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT INDONESIA'S CONTINUED TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. EAST TIMOR IS A SPECIAL CASE.

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AS YOU KNOW, A COALITION OF CONCERNED NATIONS IS WILLING TO SEND A MULTINATIONAL FORCE TO EAST TIMOR; SUCH A FORCE WOULD AIM TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION UNTIL THE MPR MEETS TO ENDORSE THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION; THEN NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE WITH THE UN.

AN MNF WOULD ENTER ON THE BASIS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S CONSENT AND SO WOULD REFLECT YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

REFUSAL TO ALLOW SUCH A FORCE IN THE FACE OF ONGOING CHAOS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN.

INVITING THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE IN STILL MEANS YOU WOULD AT A MINIMUM MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNTIL THEY ARRIVE, WITH FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT IN TANDEM WITH THEM.

THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING AS THIS TRAGEDY UNFOLDS, AND INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF INDONESIA HAS GROWN TO A FEVER PITCH. THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IN WHICH INDONESIA CAN SALVAGE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD IS RAPIDLY SHUTTING.

THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR IS COMPLICATED, AND TNI HAS VAST RESPONSIBILITIES ELSEWHERE IN INDONESIA. I APPEAL TO YOU TO LET THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HELP INDONESIA HELP ITSELF.

ROY UNQUOTE PICKERING

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